

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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R 021630 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6129

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, TO, GH

SUBJ: TOGO- GHANA BORDER OPENING CEREMONIES

REF: LOME 0600

1. TWO AND A HALF HOURS OF CEREMONIES TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED 31 MAR (REFTEL). ACHEAMPONG CUT FIRST SYMBOLIC RIBBON AT ENTRY GATE, INVITING EYADEMA INTO GHANA WHERE OPENING HALF OF PROGRAM CONSISTING OF NATIONAL ANTHEMS, REVIEW OF TROOPS, HOST PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND FOLKLORE DANCES TOOK PLACE, AFTER WHICH EYADEMA RETURNED TO TOGO. IDENTICAL PROGRAM FOLLOWED ON TOGOLESE SIDE OF BORDER, WITH EYADEMA CUTTING RIBBON AND FORMALLY RECEIVING ACHEAMPONG.

2. IN HIS SPEECH, ACHEAMPONG REFERRED TO EYADEMA VISIT TO ACCRA 30 MAR AND MENTIONED THAT THEY HAD PROFITED FROM OCCASION TO STUDY IN DEPTH FACTORS WHICH HAD LONG PREVENTED TWO COUNTRIES FROM TAKING CERTAIN MEASURES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES. HE STATED IT WAS ONLY THROUGH COMBINING THEIR RESOURCES AND SHARING COMMUNAL SERVICES THATY THEY COULD
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OBTAIN NEEDED FACILITIES WITHOUT DRAINING THEIR LIMITED RESOURCES, AND CITED COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT SIGNED PREVIOUS DAY SAYING IT WOULD RESULT IN INTENSIVE LIBERALIZATION TRADE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

3. EYADEMA SAID ARBITRARY BOUNDARY BETWEEN GHANA AND TOGO ESTABLISHED DURING COLONIAL ERA WHEN COUNTRIES NOT IN CONTROL OF OWN DESTINIES, AND THAT NOW IT WAS DECIDED TO FINALLY ERASE THESE BARRIERS. CITING PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY AS REFLECTED IN COMMON MARKET, HE DEPLORED FACT THAT MOVE TOWARD AFRICAN UNITY LAGGED FAR BEHIND, AND THAT DESIRES FOR SUCH UNITY HAD NOT BEEN TRANSLATED INTO FACT. HE SAID TOGO AND GHANA MUST PRESENT UNITED FRONT ON ISSUES SUCH AS PRICES COFFEE AND COCOA OR OTHERWISE FOREIGN BUYERS WOULD PROFIT FROM THEIR DISUNITY.

4. ACHEAMPONG THEN RETURNED TO GHANAIAAN SIDE AND CEREMONIES TERMINATED WITH CONTINGENTS OF GHANAIAAN AND TOGOLESE TROOPS IN BATTLE DRESS MARCHING SHORT DISTANCES INTO EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIES AND BACK. EYADEMA THEN WENT TO FRONTIER TO MEET ACHEAMPONG FOR FOURTH TIME IN TWO DAYS TO ESCORT HIM TO LOME FOR OFFICIAL LUNCHEON. DIPLOMATIC CORPS, OTHER THAN TOGOLESE AND GHANAIAAN, NOT INVITED TO LUNCHEON. ACCORDING TO ERNEST WURTZ WHO HEADS CFAO, ONE OF LEADING FRENCH COMMERICAL FIRMS IN LOME, ONLY OTHER GUESTS ASIDE FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE LOCAL BUSINESSMENT, OF WHOM SIX (LEBANESE HONARY CONSUL WHO IS ALSO LEADING IMPORTER/ WHOLESALE, GERMAN DIRECTOR OF TOGOLESE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, DIRECTORS OF BIG FRENCH COMMERICAL FIRMS SCOA AND SGGG, AND DIRECTOR BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS IN LOME AND WURTZ HIMSELF) WERE NON- AFRICAN, HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WILL HAVE ON OVERALL PICTURE TOGO- GHANA RAPPROCHMENT. DICKINSON

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